

## Police Department Earns CALEA Accreditation



In a ceremony in November in Salt Lake City, Utah, the City of Kennesaw's Police Department was granted accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Chief Bill Westenberg and Lieutenant Tanya Young were on hand, along with

Mayor Mark Mathews, council members Bill Thrash & Tim Killingsworth and City Manager Steve Kennedy, to receive the award on behalf of the Police Department.

CALEA is the international organization formed to develop professionally-recognized standards for excellence in law enforcement management and service. These standards are the most highly regarded and broadly recognized in the law enforcement community. CALEA has established a process for agencies to demonstrate that they meet the standards. Earning accreditation is voluntary. It involves an intense examination of all aspects of law enforcement. Agencies must demonstrate commitment to professional excellence in policy and practice. The assessors look in depth at policies and procedures, management and support, and even solicit comments from citizens and other agencies.

Earning accreditation was the culmination of years of intensive work involving a team effort by the whole department. "The process requires us to put policies and procedures in place to meet 463 standards," according to Accreditation Manager Lt. Tanya Young. "During the inspection process, we must show the assessors that we follow our procedures through interviews and by providing documentation."



Shown in photo: Kennesaw PD officers with CALEA Assessors

"Undertaking the process of earning CALEA accreditation verifies our commitment to provide the very best service for our community," said Chief Bill Westenberg. There are over 17,000 state and local law enforcement agencies in the US; only about 1,000 are enrolled in the accreditation program and 760 are accredited. Kennesaw becomes the third Cobb County law enforcement agency, along with the Police Departments in Cobb County and the City of Marietta, and the 38th police department in the state to receive accreditation.

Accreditation is for three years. A report must be submitted each year verifying the department's continuing compliance with the standards.

"We recognize the massive amount of effort it took to achieve accreditation. It is one more demonstration that the Kennesaw Police Department operates by the highest standards in the industry," said Mayor Mark Mathews.

### Kennesaw Mayor & Council

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## Neighborhood News and Views

### Pedestrian Underpass Breaks Through

In spite of delays caused by this fall's extreme rainfall and the excessive number of rock beds encountered, the long-awaited pedestrian underpass will be completed this quarter, according to Public Works Director Earnie Via. The walkway will provide safe passage between the downtown commercial district on the west side of the tracks and the Depot and Southern Museum on the east side. The 115 foot tunnel was funded almost entirely by federal and state transportation funds.



### Electronic Marquee Debuts on US 41

As you are traveling on US 41, take notice of the brand new electronic marquee at the intersection of Old US 41. The new sign is part of the city's wayfinding signage system, an initiative of the Downtown Development Authority. It already includes secondary gateway signs as well as the Main Street electronic marquee; the project still has two more phases over the next 2-3 years before it is complete. The electronic signs offer updates and information about current events and alerts of interest to residents and visitors. The



city will use grant funds awarded by the Georgia DOT's Transportation Enhancement (GATEway) program to make landscape improvements around the sign.

### Flood Repairs Still Ongoing

Last September's record-breaking flood resulted in approximately \$4 million damage to city streets, sidewalks and stormwater culverts, including two road washouts on Moon Station Road and in Legacy Park. Twelve of the 26 damaged sites have been repaired and bids have been awarded on nine additional sites. But several areas with major damage will require extensive engineering studies and coordination with FEMA officials before construction begins. For the latest information about flood repairs, visit [www.kennesaw-ga.gov](http://www.kennesaw-ga.gov).

### Public Works Update

Here is a summary of some of the current projects and infrastructure improvements underway by the city Public Works Department:

- The Pine Mountain Rd/Pine Mountain Way intersection improvement design plan is completed & the right-of-way purchased. Construction will start in early 2010.



- Phase I of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) storm water replacement project which included replacement of curb and gutters in Woodland Acres, Ridgecrest Dr and Shady Lane is completed. Phase II, including Forest Drive and Melody Lane, will start in January. These improvements will raise home values and provide enhanced stormwater control.

- Over two miles of various streets have been resurfaced as part of the Local Area Resurfacing Program (LARP) program.
- The road widening project for Old Highway 41 between Barrett Parkway and Cobb Parkway will be completed in early 2010.

### Message from Mayor Mathews



Happy New Year!

As we reflect on the year past, we can proudly point to several significant accomplishments. Construction started on the pedestrian underpass that upon completion will favorably position downtown Kennesaw for growth and development and make the area safer and more pedestrian-friendly. We had record attendance at our two showcase special events, the Big Shanty Festival and the Pigs & Peaches BBQ Festival. We opened the 16 acre Smith-Gilbert Gardens to the public with routine operating hours. Our city was selected as one of the Top 25 Cities with the Best American Values by Newsmax Magazine. And most recently, our Police Department earned the much sought-after accreditation of the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

Now as we head into the next decade, we must be prepared to take advantage of improvement in the economic climate. Hopefully, the tide has turned, although there are definitely still challenges ahead. The city staff and Council are working hard to provide the high level of service you expect, keeping our fiscal responsibility in mind.

My goal is to embrace the future and look to open new doors to make our city an even better place to live, work and play. With your support and participation, we will do great things in 2010.

See you around town,

### FY 2009-2010 City Operating Budget

The approved city budget is available at [www.kennesaw-ga.gov](http://www.kennesaw-ga.gov) or by calling 770-424-8274. You can also pick up a copy at City Hall.



# Fun Things to Do

## Valentine's Dance

It's a great Knight for a Princess! Escort your sons and daughters to an enchanted evening fit for royalty on Saturday, February 6 from 6-9 pm. The banquet hall in the Ben Robertson Community Center will be transformed into a magical kingdom complete with a castle court and a dragon's lair. Dance, party and play in a wonderland of fun. We'll have abundant food, mouth-watering refreshments, games, storytelling and make-and-take crafts for all to enjoy. Come dressed in your favorite gown or suit of shining armor -- and win prizes during our costume contest. A professional DJ will spin a medieval medley of tunes, and souvenir photos will be available for purchase. Purchase tickets for \$25 per couple (\$10 for each additional family member) by calling 770-422-9714 or by logging on to at [www.kennesaw-ga.gov/pkrec/valentinesdance](http://www.kennesaw-ga.gov/pkrec/valentinesdance).



## THINK YOU CAN BE THE BIGGEST LOSER IN KENNESAW?

If you watch reality TV, then you know what it's all about. Lose weight & feel great.

Cece Evans, a National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM) Certified Personal Trainer has teamed up with the City of Kennesaw Parks & Recreation Department to offer a 16-week Biggest Loser Fitness Weight Loss Challenge for Kennesaw area residents starting on January 16.

The Biggest Loser Challenge is designed to transform your body, health and quality of life through safe and effective cardio, strength and power blast workouts. Each week, participants will have weigh-ins and prizes will be awarded based on attendance, challenges and weight loss.

The program will meet twice per week on Saturdays from 8:30- 9:30 am, and Mondays from 6:30-7:30 pm.

A physician's clearance is strongly recommended for participants who have been physically inactive or those who are under a physician's care for any major injury, illness or condition.

The registration fee is \$198 for city residents (\$213 for non-residents).

For more information, visit [www.kennesaw-ga.gov/pkrec](http://www.kennesaw-ga.gov/pkrec) or call 770- 422-9714.

*This program is not affiliated with the NBC TV network, The Biggest Loser, its producers, contestants or staff.*



## Touch-A-Truck

A unique exhibition of trucks and specialty vehicles will be on display near the Depot in downtown Kennesaw on Saturday, March 20 from 10 am to 2 pm. Kids of all ages will love exploring every vehicle, climbing onto the driver's seat, honking the horn and pretending to steer. Don't forget your camera! Admission is free.



## Easter Egg Scramble

As a way of welcoming spring, on Saturday, March 27, the event field at Swift-Cantrell Park will once again be covered with colorful egg candy. Children will be divided into groups based on their ages, so everyone will have the opportunity to scramble for treats. The scramble begins at 10:00 am SHARP, so don't be late. Bring a basket or container for the scramble, and don't forget your camera -- we're expecting a visit from the Easter Bunny and friends! The rain date will be Saturday, April 3. Admission is free.

## It's All In the Program Guide

The City of Kennesaw Parks & Recreation Department's Winter/Spring 2010 Program Guide features activities offered between January and May.

New programs include basic cake decorating, a dream builders workshop, QiGong/Tai Chi, gymnastics "tumble time", cartooning for kids, Middle-Eastern cooking, Chinese brush painting and Girl Power! -- a program dedicated to inspiring young girls to be smart, poised & confident. Returning favorites include tennis, Pilates, ballet, hip-hop, aerobics, pottery, babysitter's training and gymnastics. Visit [www.kennesaw-ga.gov/pkrec](http://www.kennesaw-ga.gov/pkrec) and click the "Program Guide" link for more details.

**COMING IN APRIL - BIG SHANTY FESTIVAL!**

## Town Hall Meetings

Mayor Mathews will be joined by the Council and city staff to listen to your concerns and answer your questions.

Thu, Jan 14 - Community Center  
Thu, Jan 21 - Kennesaw Mt High School  
Mon, Jan 25 - Legacy Park Clubhouse

All meetings are scheduled from  
6:30-8 pm.



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## Events/City Services Calendar

For more information on events, go to [www.kennesaw-ga.gov/CurrentEvents.asp](http://www.kennesaw-ga.gov/CurrentEvents.asp)

### Southern Museum

Kennesaw's Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History offers an array of popular educational programs and exhibits. The Jolley Educational Center features hands-on interactive exhibits. Programs for children include the *Mommy & Me* Series and the new *Make It & Take It* workshops. The Museum also offers history lectures, living history, guided tours and traveling exhibits.

A Smithsonian Institution affiliate, the Southern Museum features collections of rare Civil War weapons, uniforms, and other items; an exhibit about The Great Locomotive Chase, including a short movie; and a full-scale replica of a locomotive factory that helped rebuild the South after the war.

**For a schedule of events and programs at the Southern Museum, please call 770-427-2117 or log on to our website, [www.southernmuseum.org](http://www.southernmuseum.org)**

### Smith-Gilbert Gardens

Located on 16 acres, Smith-Gilbert Gardens offer tours and programs conducted by enthusiastic volunteers and master gardeners. The Gardens are open weekdays, 9 am-4 pm & Saturday 9 am-1 pm. Adult admission is \$7. Guided tours (free with admission) are offered every Friday and the 1st Saturday of the month at 10 am.

### Special Events - [www.kennesaw-ga.gov/sga](http://www.kennesaw-ga.gov/sga)

**Jan 15-16: Author Janisse Ray, 7 pm Friday and 10 am Saturday**

This best-selling naturalist and author of books, essays and poetry will be speaking about the "*Revolution in the Garden*" and signing books.

**Feb 20: Storytelling, 10 am**

Kids, gather by the fire in the Hiram Butler House, drink cocoa and enjoy the antics of the Kennesaw State University storytellers.

**Mar 13: Secrets of the Hiram Butler House, 10am**  
SGG friend Don Meadows has uncovered the facts & fiction about this historic house on the Smith-Gilbert property. Join Don as he shares the history.

For more details, call Susan at 770-919-0248 or email [sschroeder@kennesaw-ga.gov](mailto:sschroeder@kennesaw-ga.gov)

### Community Events

Jan 14 (Thu) - **Town Hall Meeting**, Community Center, 6:30 - 8 pm

Jan 21 (Thu) - **Town Hall Meeting**, Kennesaw Mountain High School, 6:30 - 8 pm

Jan 25 (Mon) - **Town Hall Meeting**, Legacy Park Clubhouse, 6:30 - 8 pm

Feb 6 (Sat) - **Valentine's Dance**, Community Center, 6-9 pm

Mar 20 (Sat) - **Touch-A-Truck**, Depot, 10 am - 2 pm

Mar 27 (Sat) - **Easter Egg Scramble**, Swift-Cantrell Park, 10 am

Apr 17-18 (Sat/Sun) - **Big Shanty Festival**, Depot and Main Street downtown, 9:30 am - 6 pm Sat, 12-5 pm Sun

### Sanitation/Trash Pickup Schedule Changes

**There will be no sanitation services on city observed holidays (Jan 1 and Jan 18). Service will resume the next regular pick up day.**

**Call 770-421-8582 for more information.**

*This newsletter is an official publication of the City of Kennesaw. It is published quarterly and mailed to sanitation customers.*

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